

26th October 1957] [Mr. Speaker]

(2) "In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1), read with Article 199, clause (1), of the Constitution of India, I, P. V. Rajamannar, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras (Transferred Territory) Extension of Laws Bill, 1957."

(3) "In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3) of the Constitution of India, I, P. V. Rajamannar, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Madras (Transferred Territory) Extension of Laws Bill, 1957."

(4) "In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3), of the Constitution of India, I, P. V. Rajamannar, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Assembly the consideration of the Madras Money Lenders Bill, 1957."

IV.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 81 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES RE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. the Home Minister desires to make a statement under rule 81 of the Madras Assembly Rules.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : On a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Point of order on what?

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : It is with reference to a paper placed on the table of the House. I request the Chair to allow me to express my point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Sure, sure.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : சபை மேஜையின் மீது திரு. எஸ். வெங்கடேஸ்வரன், ஐ.சி.எஸ். அவர்களால் சமர்ப்பிக்கப் பட்ட அறிக்கை வைத்திருப்பதை நான் அறிகிறேன். அந்த அறிக்கை என்னவென்றால் கீழ்த்தாவல் கிராமத்தில் போலீசார் அங்கே இருக்கக் கூடிய ஜனங்கள் மீது துப்பாக்கி பிரயோகம் செய்து அதன் விளைவாக ஐந்து பேர்கள் உயிர் இழந்திருப்பது சம்பந்தப்பட்டது. அந்த சம்பவம் சம்பந்தமாக நாட்டில் இரண்டு விதமான அபிப்பிராயம் இருந்து வருகின்றன. போலீசார் தரப்பில் ஒருவித அபிப்பிராயமும் பொது ஜனங்களிடம் மற்றொரு வித அபிப்பிராயமும் இருந்து வருகின்றன. பொது ஜனங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயத்துடன் ஒரு சில பொறுப்புள்ள அங்கத்தினர்களுடையதும் பார்லிமெண்ட் அங்கத்தினர்களுடையதுமான அபிப்பிராயம் வேறு இருக்கிறது. பொது ஜனங்களுடையதும் பொறுப்புள்ள அங்கத்தினர்களுடையதும் பார்லிமெண்ட் அங்கத்தினர்களுடையதும் என்ன வென்றால் போலீசார் தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் சிலரை பொருக்கி எடுத்து அவர்களை சுட்டுக் கொன்றிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது. அங்கு கலகங்கள் நடந்திருக்கின்றன. அந்தக் கலகங்களின் பேரில் சர்க்கார் கேஸ்கள் தொடர்ந்திருக்கலாம், மற்றும் பொது ஜனங்களும் கேஸ்கள் தொடர்ந்திருக்கலாம். போலீஸார்கள் கொலை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று அவர்களும் கேஸ் தொடர்ந்திருக்கலாம். இதற்கு முன்பு வால்பாரையில் தோட்டத் தொழிலாளர்கள் நடவடிக்கை சம்பந்தமாக துப்பாக்கிப் பிரயோகம் செய்த பொது அந்த சம்பவத்தைப் பற்றி விசாரிக்க ஒரு ரிவினியு போர்டு அதிகாரியை அதாவது திரு. டி. என். எஸ். ராகவன் அவர்களை விசாரிக்கச் சொல்லி அனுப்பி வைக்கப்பட்டது. அவரும் விசாரித்து தன்னுடைய அறிக்கையை சமர்ப்பித்தார். அந்த

STATEMENT UNDER RULE 81 OF THE ASSEMBLY
RULES *re* LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN
RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

[Sri M. Kalyanasundaram] [26th October 1957]

அறிக்கையை நான் இந்த சட்டசபையின் முன்பாக வைக்க வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டதற்கு அப்படி வைக்க முடியாது என்று சர்க்கார் தரப்பில் சொல்லி விட்டார்கள், அதன் பிறகு அதைப்பற்றி ஒரு கேள்வியும் கொடுத்தேன். அந்தக் கேள்வியையும் அனுமதிக்காமல் அது 'சப்ஜூடிஸ்' என்று சொல்லி அனுமதிக்காமல் திருப்பி அனுப்பி விட்டார்கள். அதன்மேல் நான் எந்த நடவடிக்கையும் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவில்லை, பதில் லெட்டரும் எழுதவில்லை. அது சம்பந்தமாக கோர்ட்டுகளில் வழக்கு இருப்பதால் அனுமதிக்க முடியாது என்று சொன்னதால் நான் அதை ஏற்றுப் கொண்டேன். அப்படிப்பட்ட நிலைமையில் இப்பொழுது கீழ்த்தாவல் சம்பந்தமாக கோர்ட்டுகளில் நடவடிக்கைகள் தொடர்ந்திருக்கலாம். அப்படிப்பட்ட நிலைமையில் அந்த அறிக்கையை சபையின் முன்பாக வைக்கலாமா அந்த அறிக்கையை பத்திரிகைகளில் பிரசுரிக்கலாமா என்பதையும் அது ஒழுங்கான நடவடிக்கையா என்பதையும் அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I may inform the hon. Member that there is no case pending in any court in respect of these incidents. It may be that some proceedings might have been taken by some persons. But we have no such information. Under these circumstances, I do not understand how the question of *sub judice* arises so far as this question is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. the Leader of the House says that, so far as he is aware, no case is pending before any legal body. I therefore feel that there can be no objection. It is the right of this House to know the findings of whatever enquiry has been conducted by the Government with regard to any disturbance in the State. This is the only body which can consider the matter or take any action it likes. An opportunity to discuss the report will arise when the no-confidence motion is coming up for discussion on the 28th and 29th. The hon. Member can then take any objection that he may have on the merits of the case. I rule that it is perfectly in order for the Government to place the report on the table.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : A no-confidence motion has been tabled, and day after tomorrow has been fixed as the day for taking it up for discussion. Will it be proper to have any other legislative work in the meantime?

MR. SPEAKER : The President's Government continues for all time, though Ministers may come and Ministers may go. In England it is said "The King is dead. Long live the King." Whatever legislation is passed before the no-confidence motion is passed is law. Therefore this House is perfectly within its rights in discussing legislative measures.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : May I submit that, so far as this House is concerned, it will continue to function? Any legislation passed is passed by this House and not by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Without going into or deciding the merits of the case, I say that this House is in order in taking up legislation till the passing of the no-confidence motion.

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[Mr. Speaker]

Under rule 81 of the Assembly Rules, the Hon. the Home Minister will make a statement.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement on the recent outbreak of lawlessness and violence in some parts of Ramanathapuram district, and the steps taken by Government to maintain law and order and to render relief to the victims of the riots.

Between the Maravars and the Harijans of the eastern taluks of Ramanathapuram district, there has been tension for some time past, arising mainly out of the difficulties in the processes of social adjustment. The disabilities of the Harijans in these areas were far more acute than in other parts of the State. As a result of the efforts of Mahatma Gandhi in the early days, and the policy of the Government since then, the Harijans became more conscious of their rights and began to assert them. Unlike in other areas, this process of adjustment seems to have met with greater resistance from the caste Hindus, especially the Thevars. In Tiruvadanai and the neighbouring areas of Sivaganga taluk, the wearing of shirts by Harijans especially during festivals was resented by the caste Hindus. This, coupled with the refusal of the Harijans to pay the so-called "customary homage" to the caste Hindus, resulted in communal clashes. In 1930 the Police had to bind over 63 caste Hindus for keeping the peace under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, because they were responsible for several acts of violence against the Harijans during the car festival at Elavankottai. The tension continued and there was a grave case of dacoity in 1932 in which a group of caste Hindus raided the houses of the Harijans during the course of which grievous injuries were caused to several Harijans, and their jewellery and other properties looted. I may mention here that Gandhiji publicly criticised the caste Hindus who had committed the above crime. In 1949, 100 armed Maravars from Elanjambur and 50 Harijans of Veerambal, clashed with each other, as a result of which, 4 Harijans and one Marava were killed. In April 1955, there was another wave of communal bitterness, which led the Ramanathapuram Depressed Classes Youth League to issue pamphlets, bitterly attacking caste Hindus, and appealing to the local Harijans to embrace Islam, to escape from the clutches of the caste Hindus.

This unfortunate tension between the Thevars and the Harijans became more pronounced during the early part of this year. With the approach of the General Elections, the Thevars were anxious to keep the Harijans under their control to ensure that they supported only their party candidate. The Government were justifiably concerned with this tension, but the imperative need of the hour was to ensure free and fair elections, and special precautionary measures were put into operation in Mudukulathur taluk. Arrangements were also made to enable the quick movement of the Police in parties of sufficient strength in interior tracts. Largely due to these precautionary steps, major breaches of the peace were averted,

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and the situation kept under control in a difficult period. Even so, complaints were received by Government, of incidents where the Thevars tried to harass the Harijans who voted for the Congress, by pouring kerosene oil into the wells used by the Harijans and setting fire to their houses.

The situation worsened shortly after the General Elections. The Government received petitions alleging several cases of lawlessness as a result of the inflammatory speeches by Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar, inciting his followers to harass Nadars and Harijans, and such of those who had supported Congress candidates during the General Elections. As some of these cases are still *sub-judice*, I am not referring to them in detail.

As the by-elections in the Mudukulathur Assembly Constituency approached, reports were received by Government, that concerted efforts were being made by the Thevars to prevent Harijans from exercising their franchise, which they feared might be in favour of the Congress. Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar and his men made speeches, markedly violent in tone, and containing disparaging references to Central and State Ministers and local officials. He openly boasted that the officials could not do anything against him, or those under his protection. It was not surprising therefore, that the Harijans of the area made specific requests to Government, that if they were to exercise their franchise without fear, they should be given protection from the Maravars. To enable everybody, irrespective of their caste or community to exercise their franchise without fear of intimidation, the Government moved a few companies of the Armed Reserve into this area during the period. The by-elections also passed off peacefully.

But the by-elections which were over on 4th July 1957 left a trail of bitterness among the Thevars who felt that a section of the Harijans had defied them and voted for the Congress. They attacked the Harijans who also retaliated in some places where they had sufficient strength. Between then and the 10th of September, several cases of rioting, wrongful confinement, robbery, mischief to property, etc., were reported from the area. It is, I submit, Sir, against this background of inter-communal tension that we have to view the incident that took place on or after 10th September 1957.

I shall now narrate briefly, in chronological order, the details of the incidents which took place on the 10th of September and the subsequent days.

The starting point of the recent outbreak of lawlessness, was a "Peace Conference" convened by the Collector of Ramanathapuram on 10th September 1957, to ease the mounting communal tension in these taluks and to bring about a permanent settlement. Recognized leaders of the different communities were invited to attend this Conference. It is on record, Sir, that Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar who attended the Conference questioned the leadership of one Sri Emmanuel, Leader of the Local Depressed Classes

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League, who was representing the Harijans. Sri Thevar is reported to have asked Emmanuel whether he could pose as a Leader of the same stature as Sri Thevar, and whether his assurances on behalf of the Harijans were worth having. To this, Sri Emmanuel replied that even though he could not pose as a leader of the same stature as Sri Thevar, yet he had his own following among the Harijans. It is also learnt, Sir, that while coming out of the Conference, Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar chided his followers for allowing even Pallans like Emmanuel to talk back to him. The very next day, Sri Emmanuel was brutally murdered at Paramakudi. I shall not refer to further details about this case, because it is likely to become *sub-judice* sooner or later. This murder touched off a series of crimes in Mudukulathur and adjoining areas,

On 13th September 1957, at about 11 a.m. a mob of Thevars armed with vel-sticks and aruvals attacked the Harijans of Arunkulam and murdered five of them, including one woman. They also set fire to 24 Harijan houses and threw four of the dead bodies into the fire. The immediate provocation for this was that the Harijans had objected to the singing of a song in the praise of Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar, in a drama which had been jointly organized and was enacted on 12th September 1957 at Arunkulam. The Harijans of Arunkulam retaliated the same day. They gathered together and attacked the Thevars, murdered three of them including two women, set fire to their houses, and threw the dead bodies into the fire.

On the morning of 14th September 1957, there was a clash between Harijans and Thevars at Orakudi village, in which four Harijans were injured.

The same day, a police party which had gone to Keelathooval village to apprehend the accused in the Emmanuel murder case, was attacked by an unlawful assembly of a few hundreds of Thevars, armed with deadly weapons. The Police had to open fire in self-defence on this unlawful assembly, as a result of which five Maravars were killed. On orders from Government, Sri S. Venkateswaran, I.C.S., Member, Board of Revenue, conducted an enquiry into the incident. The report of the Board Member has been printed and placed on the table of the House. Sri Venkateswaran, in his report, has held that the police had to open fire in self-defence and that the opening of fire was justified, and the Government have accepted his findings.

At about 6 a.m. on 16th September 1957, there was a clash between the Thevars of Ilanjambur and Harijans of Veerambal, in which four Thevars including a woman and two Harijans died, and 17 Harijans and two Thevars were injured. The same day a mob of armed Thevars burnt nearly 60 houses in Erulandipatti and Senthakottai villages. Three Harijans including one woman were killed, and a Harijan woman seriously injured.

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On 16th September 1957 a Police party on patrol duty came upon some 500 Harijans at Keerandai and arrested 120 of them to prevent any possible attack by them on Maravars. Several aruvals and other weapons were recovered from them.

On the evening of 17th September 1957, about 1,000 armed Thevars gathered together at Keerandhai for attacking the surrounding villages. On being encountered by a Special Armed Police party, the mob rushed towards the party and attacked them with deadly weapons, including fire arms. The police opened seven rounds of fire, killing three persons and injuring two. On their way to Keerandhai, the same mob had earlier set fire to some Harijan houses in Muthendal village.

At about 4 p.m. on 18th September 1957, a Thevar mob set fire to Harijan houses in Thattangudi village.

The next day at about 10 p.m., a Police party noticing that huts were burning in Perambacheri village in Sivaganga taluk, went in the direction of the fire, when about 100 armed Thevars surrounded and attacked them. The police had to open nine rounds of fire to disperse this crowd. No loss of life was reported.

The same day, cases of mischief by fire to Harijan huts were reported from Tiruppachetti, Nallur, Tiruppuvanam, Vadi and Piramanoor villages.

On 20th September 1957 the Inspector of Police, Kamudhi, accompanied by a Malabar Special Police party went in pursuit of a band of Thevars, who were going about setting fire to Palla houses in some villages in Narikudi Police Station limits. The party encountered an armed mob of Thevars at Ulithimadai. The armed mob attacked the Police party with deadly weapons whereon the Police opened fire, in which four persons were killed.

On the same day, an armed gang of 500 Thevars who went about setting fire to Palla houses and looting properties in Pacheri, Kaloarani and surrounding villages, was encountered by a Special Armed Police party under the lead of Inspector of Police, Manamadurai, at Malavarayanendal at 5 p.m. The Police ordered the mob to surrender their arms. As the mob defied the Police and pelted stones at them, the Taluk Magistrate, Sivaganga, who was with the Police party, ordered the Police to open fire. Even after three rounds were fired, the mob still advanced towards the Police party, whereon three more rounds were fired. One person who was injured as a result of the firing, died on the way to hospital.

Later on the same day, there was a gruesome incident in Veerambal. About 200 Thevars from Elanjambur and surrounding villages armed with deadly weapons, attacked the Harijans of Veerambal. The frightened Harijans ran to a church and took shelter inside it after closing the doors and windows. But the assailants continued their pursuit, went to the church, burnt the

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doors, smashed the windows, and shot at the Harijans inside, killing two of them and injuring 32 others. One of the injured persons died subsequently.

Between the 21st and 30th of September, several cases of rioting, arson and mischief were reported from some of the villages in the area, though they did not involve loss of life. Hon. Members could appreciate from these incidents the explosive nature of the situation and the extent to which the Thevars of the area were conscious of their communal superiority. It was to these people, that Sri Muthuramalinga Thevar had been making speeches designed to foment communal hatred and violence. I may refer to a few typical speeches of his.

Speaking at Madurai on 12th May 1956, he declared that he would start a nation-wide violent struggle unless India quit the Commonwealth.

In June 1956, he made a speech at Abiramam, in which he threatened the Police officials that any mischief directed against him would result in serious consequences to the Police. While addressing a public meeting at Tiruppuvanam-Pudur on 10th July 1957, he said the Congressmen indulged in atrocities of all kinds, and that if they exceeded the limits, he would be prepared to commence a Third World War in Mudukulathur instead of in Kashmir.

On 16th September 1957 addressing a public meeting at Vadakkampatti, Sri Thevar referred to the communal strife raging in Mudukulathur and Paramakudi areas. Obviously the reference was to the incidents which had occurred at Arunkulam, Keelathooval, Veerambal, Ilanjambur, Irulandipatti and Sandakottai between 10th and 16th September 1957. He said that the Congress had chosen to fight a battle in the wrong place, that the residents of the locality are militant and have faced guns and bullets even as early as in the British regime. He added that his people in view of their experience gained in the past would not be afraid of the Police, the Special Police or the Army, and that if an attempt was made to control the situation by force, the Government would be repaid in the same coin and force would be met by force. The people, he stated, would also freely use fire-arms and Civil war would be fought to establish "Dharma" in the country.

In their efforts to maintain law and order during the recent crisis in Mudukulathur and adjoining areas, the Police arrested several suspects and accused in the various crimes. Referring to these arrests, Sri Thevar is understood to have stated to a representative of the "Tamil Nadu", that the Government's action in arresting Thevars even in his own village of Pasumpon, where his cook and some relatives were also arrested, amounted to challenging him for a fight.

In connexion with the enquiry by Sri S. Venkateswaran, I.C.S., into the Police firing at Keelathooval village though Sri Thevar had orally announced that he and his party would not take part in the

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enquiry, he seated himself in a car at the entrance of the building where the enquiry was held. This had the effect of preventing witnesses coming forward to tender evidence which might clash with Sri Thevar's contentions.

Honourable Members can well understand the concern which the violent speeches of Sri Thevar and the chain of incidents to which they led, should have caused to the Collector, who is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in his district. The Collector was satisfied that Sri Thevar had been openly by his speeches, and secretly through his followers, inciting communal disorders and acts of violence and that if he was allowed to be at large, he was likely to use his freedom to foment communal disturbances and encourage lawlessness and breaches of the peace. In the above circumstances, the Collector did the right thing in ordering his arrest and detention under the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act.

Sir, I now come to the heavy toll of life and property which these unfortunate events have taken. In cases of open clashes between the two communities 17 Harijans and 8 Thevars were killed. In the cases of attacks on the Police and consequent Police firings all the 13 persons killed were Thevars. As regards the number of houses which were burnt the figures are like this :—

Harijan houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,735
Thevar houses	...	...	...	...	...	107

The following is a rough estimate of the damages to properties :—

	RS.
1 Paramakudi taluk	11,000
2 Mudukulathur taluk	25,000
3 Sivaganga taluk	2,51,353
4 Aruppukottai taluk	86,350
Total	3,73,703

While the restoration of law and order has been the primary concern of Government, they have already set in motion a machinery of relief and rehabilitation. Cash relief at the rate of Rs. 30 for each house destroyed has been disbursed by the Collector in 124 villages. About 12,770 Madras measures of rice and ragi have been distributed in 116 villages in the affected taluks.

In addition to the assistance given by the State non-official agencies, particularly the Ramakrishna Mission, have started large scale relief operations, distributing clothes and building materials to all affected villages. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was placed at the disposal of the Ramakrishna Mission from out of the Cyclone Relief Fund for organizing immediate relief works. Here I would like to place on record, Government's appreciation of the good work done by the Mission in this area.

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Government are well aware that the malaise is more deep-seated, and that only the educational and economic development of the area can produce a lasting solution of the problem. Orders have already been issued to cover the entire Mudukulathur taluk by National Extension Scheme Blocks, so as to enable this region to be intensively developed. Besides, it is proposed to take up immediately the development of communications, the extension of housing facilities, the provision of irrigation and drinking water and the extension of electric power. All these ameliorative measures will require finances of a large order and let us hope that the Government of India will lend us a helping hand.

Some criticisms have been levelled against the Government on their handling of the situation. It is not necessary nor do I propose to analyse the reasons which have prompted these allegations. I shall refer briefly to the main points urged by the critics of the Government.

The main criticism has been that the Government did not order a judicial enquiry into each case of police firing, and into the Keelathooval firing, in particular. The object of an enquiry into a case of Police firing is to find out whether the police were justified in having opened fire. Under the existing orders of the Government whenever a Government servant opens fire while engaged in his official duties, the Collector of the district has to order an enquiry into the incident by a Magistrate. Usually such an enquiry is conducted by the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned, who is also an Executive First-class Magistrate.

In the last few years the Government have instituted official enquiries into other cases of police firings of major importance. The enquiry into the Police firing in Tuticorin in 1953 was done jointly by a senior Collector, Sri C. A. Ramakrishnan and the then Sub-Judge of Tuticorin. The police firing at Dalmiapuram which took place at the same time was also jointly enquired into by the District Collector and Sub-Judge. Sri W. R. S. Sathianathan, I.C.S., then Member, Board of Revenue, conducted the enquiry into the Naduvattam Police firing of 1954. The enquiry into the Police firing at Valparai early this year was conducted by Sri T. N. S. Raghavan, Member, Board of Revenue. In all these cases, including the recent one, Government have invested the enquiring officers with powers under the Commissions of Enquiry Act to enable them to compel the attendance of witnesses and to take evidence on oath and to confer immunity to witnesses from any civil or criminal proceedings in respect of statements made by them. These enquiries are therefore in the real sense, judicial enquiries.

The only other objection that can be raised in this case, is that the enquiry was entrusted to an Executive Officer and not a member of the judiciary. Sir, here I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that even the worst critics of the Keelathooval Enquiry have not questioned the choice of the Enquiring Officer. They have on the other hand paid handsome tributes to the integrity, impartiality and experience of the Officer.

STATEMENT UNDER RULE 81 OF THE ASSEMBLY
RULES *re* LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN
RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

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Honourable Members will agree with me that the Tuticorin, Dalmiapuram, Naduvattam and Valparai enquiries were all conducted in an impartial manner and that the public were fully satisfied with them. As a matter of fact, this method of enquiry has become an accepted procedure which commands the confidence of the public, and serves the purpose for which such enquiries are meant. There was therefore no hesitation on the part of Government to order a similar enquiry, as soon as the news of the Keelathooval Police firing was received. Honourable Members might remember that the public announcement of the proposed enquiry was made within twenty-four hours of the incident. At the time the enquiry was ordered, the only consideration was the seriousness of the firing in question.

Sir, it is significant that the demand for a judicial enquiry has now veered to a demand for a general enquiry into all the developments, including the underlying causes for the disturbances. Such a probe at this juncture can only aggravate the situation, and give a new lease to the forces of hatred and disunity that are just being brought under control.

In respect of the Keelathooval firing, I am pained to note that the allegation that the Police tied the hands of the victims and shot them dead, is still being persisted in, notwithstanding the fact that Sri Venkateswaran has given a clear finding, based on indisputable medical and other evidence, that the allegation is false. I would request the Honourable Members to go through the report placed on the table of the House and I am sure they will agree with me that on the basis of the evidence available, no enquiring officer could have come to a different conclusion.

I should next refer to the criticisms on the tour of Sri Datar, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It has been alleged that he had been briefed incorrectly and that his enquiries were one-sided. To say the least, these are very uncharitable allegations against a Minister of the Central Government, who had come all the way from Delhi to assess the situation on first-hand knowledge and to help us to the extent possible. Honourable Members are perhaps aware that prominent members of the Opposition parties, accompanied Sri Datar in his tour for the first two days. All of a sudden they dropped off, and gave a statement to the press alleging that Sri Datar's enquiry was partial and one-sided. I still do not know why representatives of the Opposition parties did not accompany Sri Datar throughout his tour unless it be that they thought that they could escape from facts that way.

Another criticism to which I should refer, is the allegation of Police excesses during raids and searches of villages predominantly inhabited by Thevars. Reports received by Government do not bear out this allegation. I may, however, assure the House that all complaints of highhandedness on the part of the Police, are being enquired into. Whatever may be the findings on those enquiries, I am sure Honourable Members will agree with me that in tackling

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these disturbances, the police were faced with a very difficult situation and on the whole they have risen to the occasion without fear or favour.

It has also been alleged that the Harijans of the area were not given adequate protection, even though it was known that there was considerable tension between the Thevars and the Harijans. I have already explained in detail the elaborate Police arrangements which were made for ensuring peace in the area, from the time of the last general elections. In fact, at present the entire Special Armed Police of this State and 4 companies which the Andhra State has very kindly lent us in this emergency are deployed in that area. They will be kept there till the people of that locality feel assured that their life and property will be safe. Honourable Members will however agree with me that police arrangements alone cannot ensure lasting peace unless the people of the locality learn to sink their petty differences and live in harmony as common citizens of a free country.

It has been alleged that these clashes are not really communal in their origin but political. This controversy is as unnecessary as it is unedifying. The only political element in these regrettable incidents is that the deep-rooted communal animosities in this area have been deliberately worked up by interested political groups. Unfortunate as these happenings are, it is even more tragic that these should have been exploited by interested parties for their own political propaganda.

In any case, may I now appeal to all sections of this House, to help remove this rancour, which is a blot on the fair name of Tamilnad. I would also request this House to endorse my appeal to the Members of both the communities involved in the clashes, not to fritter away their energies in this manner. The need of the hour is that all energies should be canalized towards the constructive tasks now being undertaken in this area.

I would also like to place on record Government's deep sympathy with the families of those who lost their lives during the riots and also to those other victims who have suffered injuries or losses to property.

There are certain things which should be kept above politics, above the petty wrangling of political groups, there are certain problems towards solving which all public workers should unite in common endeavour irrespective of party affiliations. It is the duty of all those who cherish the interests of our country to help in creating in the riot-affected areas an atmosphere of good-will, sympathy and mutual understanding. I have already referred to the twofold programme taken up by Government to meet the situation. The first is to take all steps to restore law and order and ensure protection to the people. The second is the implementation of schemes, intended to raise the economic, social and cultural levels

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of life, in these areas which have for long remained obstinately backward. In this formidable task, Government will not only be willing but happy, to have the help and constructive co-operation of all public workers.

It is my hope and prayer, and I am sure it is also the hope and prayer of the Honourable Members here present, that the ugly incidents which have ravaged the area will never recur, and that all the communities in the district will in future be able to live in complete amity and peace.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be any discussion on the statement made by the Hon. Minister.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Sir, I am not rising to discuss the statement. I am only trying to make a suggestion to the Chair. It would be better if a copy of the statement made by the Hon. Minister is circulated to the Members before this evening as it contains some useful information which will be helpful for further study of the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any objection to the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I think hon. Members would perhaps desire a Tamil version of the statement to be circulated to them. I shall arrange to get it translated, copied and circulated to them. But, it may not be possible to circulate it before this evening. I shall, however, arrange to have it circulated to them on the 28th morning.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Pending the circulation of the Tamil translation of the statement, I suggest that copies of the statement in English may be circulated to at least the leaders of all parties before this evening.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, the statement just now read by the Hon. Minister is too long to be assimilated by just hearing it. It is a good piece of literature and I would like the Hon. Minister to arrange to circulate the English copies of the statement to the Members beforehand so that we may be prepared for the discussion.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I shall try to get the English copy of the statement circulated to the Members before the House rises to-day.

SRI A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI: இந்த முதுகனத்தார் சம்பவம் இரு வகுப்பினர்களுக்குள்ளே ஏற்பட்டது. அது மாவர்களுக்கும் பள்ளர்களுக்கும். . . . ஒரு சின்ன திருத்தம். . . . ஒரு தவறு இருக்கிறது. கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அறிக்கையிலே தேவர் என்று சொல்லியிருப்பது பல் ஜாதி . . .

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MR. SPEAKER : கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் இந்த ஸ்டேட்மெண்ட் கொடுத்த பிறகு எந்தவிதமான கேள்வியோ அல்லது திருத்தமோ செய்யக் கூடாது என்று 81-வது விதியில் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதை தாங்கள் தயவு செய்து கேட்டுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இந்த ஸ்டேட்மெண்ட் விவாதத்திற்கு வரும்போது கேள்விகள் கேட்கலாம் அல்லது திருத்தப் பிரேரணைகள் கொடுக்கலாம். இந்த நேரத்தில் அப்படி ஒன்றும் செய்யக் கூடாது.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I shall try to have the English copy of the statement circulated to the Members before the House rises to-day. I shall also try to get the Tamil version of the statement circulated to the Members on the 28th morning.

V.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE *re* BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S DECISION ON THE SITTINGS OF THE PRESENT SESSION.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Leader of the House, however dissatisfied he is with the decisions of the Business Advisory Committee, will now place those decisions before the House for its approval.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, the Business Advisory Committee met yesterday and the following recommendations have been made by it for the acceptance of this House.

“The House will sit up to and inclusive of the 16th November 1957.” These dates have been fixed with reference to the elections which have got to take place to the Council of States.

“The House will sit from 9 a.m. to 1-30 p.m. from the 26th October 1957 onwards.

The 31st October 1957, the 7th and the 14th November 1957 are allotted for the transaction of non-official business.”

The statement made by the Hon. Minister for Home this morning on the law and order situation in Ramanathapuram district will be discussed on the 28th and 29th October 1957.

“The White Paper” on Local Administration will be considered on the 4th and 5th November 1957.

The Report of the Legislature Committee on Education will be considered on the 6th and 8th November 1957.

Government Bills will be taken on the following days :—

26th October 1957 The Madras District Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

30th October 1957 The Motor Vehicles (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1957.

1st November 1957 The Madras (Transferred Territory) Re-enacting Bill, 1957.
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